Global Innovation Index 2025

Uruguay ranking in the Global Innovation Index 2025

Uruguay ranks 68th among the 139 economies featured in the GII 2025.

The Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities. Consisting of roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs, the GII aims to capture the multi-dimensional facets of innovation.

Uruguay ranks 47th among the 54 High-income group economies.

Uruguay ranks 4th among the 21 economies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Uruguay GII Ranking (2020-2025)

The table shows the rankings of Uruguay over the past six years. Data availability and changes to the GII model framework influence year-on-year comparisons of the GII rankings. The statistical confidence interval for the ranking of Uruguay in the GII 2025 is between ranks 59 and 76.

Year	GII Position	Innovation Inputs	Innovation Outputs
2020	69th	69th	65th
2021	65th	69th	63rd
2022	64th	57th	76th
2023	63rd	56th	73rd
2024	62nd	56th	75th
2025	68th	61st	76th

Uruguay performs worse in innovation outputs than innovation inputs in 2025.

This year **Uruguay ranks 61st in innovation inputs.** This position is lower than last year.

Uruguay ranks 76th in innovation outputs. This position is lower than last year.

Uruguay has no clusters in the world's top innovation clusters of the Global Innovation Index.

Global Innovation Index 2025

> Global Innovation Tracker

The Global Innovation Tracker 2025 shows what is the current state of innovation in Uruguay, how rapidly is technology being embraced and what are the resulting societal impacts.

For Uruguay, 3 indicators have improved in the short-term and 4 indicators have worsened.

Science and innovation investment

	Scientific publications	R&D investments	Venture capital deal numbers	International patent filings
Short term	▲ 0.7 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 6.7 % 2021 - 2022	▼ -62.5 % 2023 - 2024	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 3.3 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 9 % 2012 - 2022	▲ 10.7 % 2020 - 2024	n/a

Technology adoption

	Safe sanitation	Connectivity		Robots	Electric vehicles
		Fixed broadband	5G		
Short term	n/a	▼ -3.3% 2022 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Long term (annual growth)	n/a	▲ 4.1% 2013 - 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a
Penetration	n/a	32.4 per 100 inhabitants in 2023	n/a	n/a	n/a

Socioeconomic impact

	Labor productivity	Life expectancy	Temperature change
Short term	▼ -0.3 % 2023 - 2024	▲ 2.2 % 2022 - 2023	+ 0.9 °C 2024
Long term (annual growth)	▲ 1.4 % 2014 - 2024	▲ 0.2 % 2013 - 2023	+ 1.2 °C 2014
Level	66,288.8 USD in 2024	78.1 years in 2023	n/a

Notes: Not all indicators of the Global Innovation Tracker are used to calculate the Global Innovation Index. Long-term annual growth refers to the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the indicated period. For each variable, a one-year growth rate is set for the short run, and ten-year CAGR is set for the long run; time windows might differ when gaps exist in data availability. The end period corresponds to the most recent available observation, which may differ among countries. Temperature change is an exception: it indicates the change in degrees Celsius with respect to the average temperature in the countries. from 1951–1980. Figures are rounded.

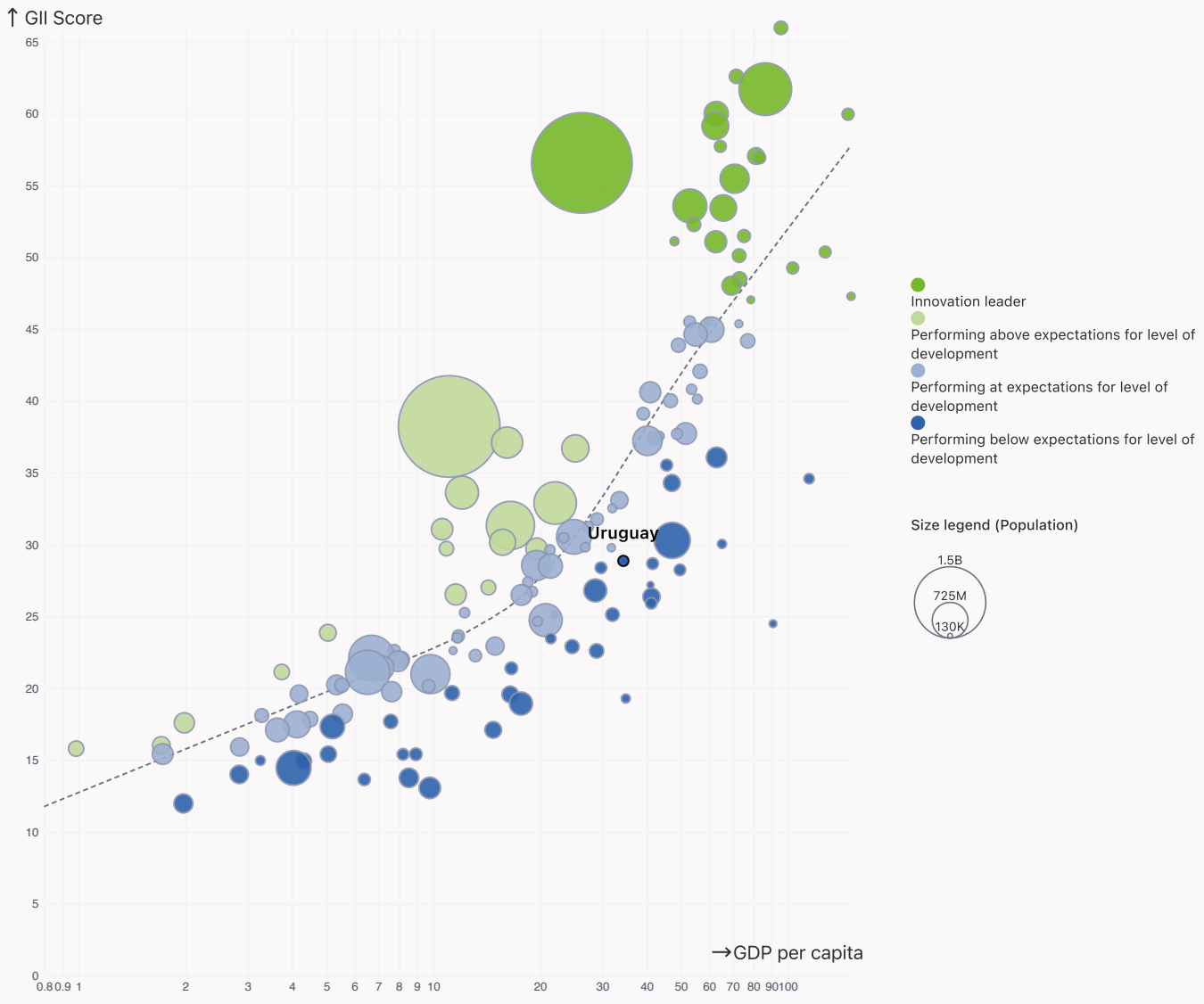
Global Innovation Index 2025

Expected vs. Observed Innovation Performance

The bubble chart below shows the relationship between income levels (GDP per capita) and innovation performance (GII score). The trend line gives an indication of the expected innovation performance according to income level. Economies appearing above the trend line are performing better than expected and those below are performing below expectations.

Relative to GDP Uruguay performs below expectations for its level of development.

> Innovation overperformers relative to their economic development



Global Innovation Index 2025

Effectively translating innovation investments into innovation outputs

The chart below shows the relationship between innovation inputs and innovation outputs. Economies above the line are effectively translating costly innovation investments into more and higher-quality outputs.

Uruguay produces less innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments.

> Relationship between innovation inputs and outputs

Global Innovation Index 2025

Overview of Uruguay's rankings in the seven areas of the GII in 2025

The chart shows the ranking for each of the seven areas that the GII comprises. The strongest areas for Uruguay are those that rank above the GII (shown in blue) and the weakest are those that rank below.

Highest Rankings

Uruguay ranks highest in Institutions (31st) and Infrastructure (46th).

Lowest Rankings

Uruguay ranks lowest in Business sophistication (115th), Market sophistication (103rd) and Human capital and research (93rd).

The full WIPO Intellectual Property Statistics profile for Uruguay can be found on https://www.wipo.int/edocs/statistics-country-profile/en/uy.pdf

Global Innovation Index 2025

Benchmark of Uruguay against other economy groupings for each of the seven areas of the GII Index

The charts shows the relative position of Uruguay (blue bar) against other economy groupings (grey bars)

High-income economies

Uruguay performs above the High-income group average in Institutions.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Uruguay performs above the regional average in Institutions, Infrastructure, Knowledge and technology outputs, Creative outputs.

Institutions

- Top 10 | Score: 78.63
- Uruguay | Score: 67.46
- High-income | Score: 65.99
- LCN | Score: 38.69

Human capital and research

- Top 10 | Score: 59.30
- High-income | Score: 45.45
- LCN | Score: 26.83
- Uruguay | Score: 24.16

Infrastructure

- Top 10 | Score: 61.36
- High-income | Score: 54.18
- Uruguay | Score: 50.59
- LCN | Score: 36.36

Market sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 61.82
- High-income | Score: 47.12
- LCN | Score: 29.96
- Uruguay | Score: 27.61

Business sophistication

- Top 10 | Score: 59.10
- High-income | Score: 42.22
- LCN | Score: 25.00
- Uruguay | Score: 22.10

Knowledge and technology outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 54.93
- High-income | Score: 33.94
- Uruguay | Score: 20.01
- LCN | Score: 15.29

Creative outputs

- Top 10 | Score: 55.98
- High-income | Score: 38.68
- Uruguay | Score: 18.58
- LCN | Score: 17.22

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation strengths and weaknesses in Uruguay

The table below gives an overview of the indicator strengths and weaknesses of Uruguay in the GII 2025.

Uruguay's best-ranked innovation strengths are **Policy stability for doing business†** (rank 4), **Low-carbon energy use, %** (rank 12) and **ICT services exports, % total trade** (rank 16).

Strengths

Rank	Code	Indicator name
4	1.3.1	Policy stability for doing business†
12	3.3.2	Low-carbon energy use, %
16	6.3.4	ICT services exports, % total trade
16	1.1.1	Operational stability for businesses*
17	2.1.3	School life expectancy, years
24	6.3.5	ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP
26	7.2.1	Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade
28	3.1.3	Government's online service*
32	5.3.4	FDI net inflows, % GDP
32	3.3.3	ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP

Weaknesses

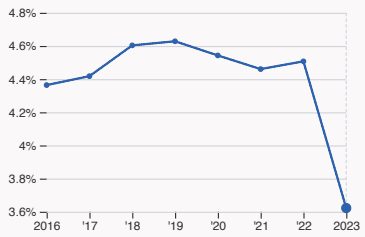
Rank	Code	Indicator name
114	3.2.3	Gross capital formation, % GDP
108	6.1.1	Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP
108	2.2.2	Graduates in science and engineering, %
87	4.2.3	Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC
81	7.1.3	Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP
80	5.1.5	GERD financed by business, %
77	4.1.1	Finance for startups and scaleups†
77	5.3.5	Research talent, % in businesses
53	6.2.2	Unicorn valuation, % GDP
44	2.3.3	Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD

Global Innovation Index 2025

Uruguay's innovation system

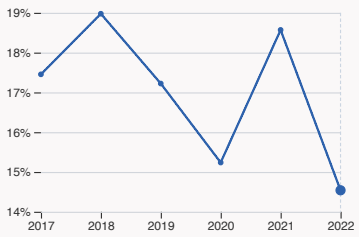
As far as practicable, the plots below present unscaled indicator data.

Innovation inputs in Uruguay



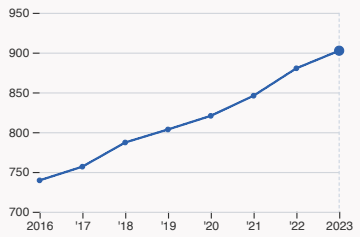
2.1.1 Expenditure on education

was equal to 3.62 % GDP in 2023, down by 0.88 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 93.



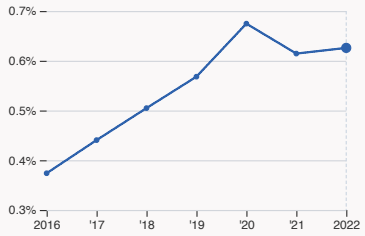
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering

was equal to 14.54 % of total graduates in 2022, down by 4.03 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 108.



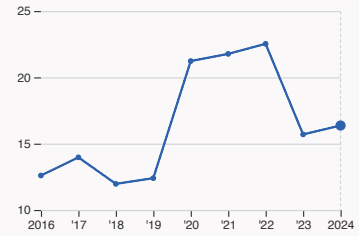
2.3.1 Researchers

was equal to 902.42 FTE per million population in 2023, up by 2.51% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 56.



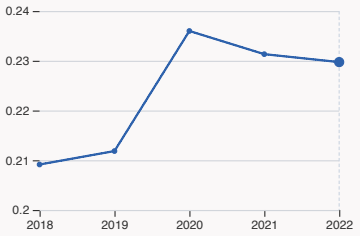
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D

was equal to 0.63 % GDP in 2022, up by 0.01 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 57.



2.3.4 QS university ranking

was equal to an average score of 16.37 for the top three universities in 2024, up by 4.27% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 60.



4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification

was equal to an index score of 0.23 in 2022, down by 0.69% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 82.

5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment

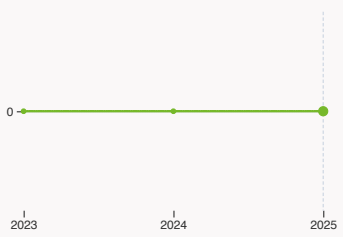
was equal to 24.77 % in 2023, up by 0.03 percentage points from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 58.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Innovation outputs in Uruguay

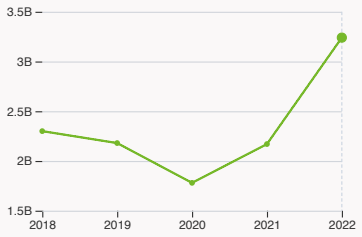
6.1.1 Patents by origin

was equal to 15 patents in 2023, up by 150% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 108.



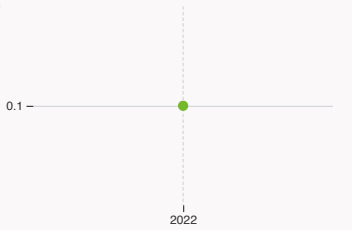
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation

The country does not have unicorns in 2025.



6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing

was equal to 3.24 high-tech manufacturing output in billion USD in 2022, up by 49.31% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 72.

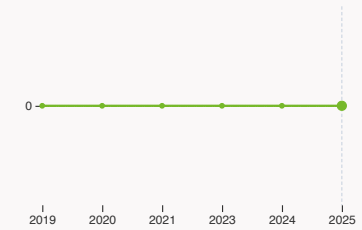


6.3.2 Production and export complexity

was equal to a score of 0.1 in 2022 – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 56.

6.3.3 High-tech exports

was equal to 191.82 million USD in 2023, up by 2.4% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 78.



7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000

The country does not have any brands that make the top 5,000 ranking in 2025.

7.2.2 National feature films

was equal to 12 films in 2023, up by 33.33% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 35.

7.3.3 Mobile app creation

was equal to 59.07 million global downloads of mobile apps in 2024, down by 5.35% from the year prior – and equivalent to an indicator rank of 34.

Uruguay's innovation top performers

Data not available for 2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, 5.2.3 University–industry & international engagement, 6.2.2 Top Unicorn Companies, 7.1.1 Top 15 intangible-asset intensive companies and 7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000.

Disclaimer: This section contains only the top performers per country. For the complete list, please visit the GII Innovation Ecosystems and Data Explorer website.

2.3.4 QS university ranking of Uruguay's top universities

Rank	University	Score
661-670	UNIVERSIDAD DE LA REPUBLICA (UDELAR)	18.90
741-750	UNIVERSIDAD DE MONTEVIDEO (UM)	16.70
851-900	UNIVERSIDAD ORT URUGUAY	13.50

Source: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd (https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2024).
Note: QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd annually assesses over 1,200 universities across the globe and scores them between [0,100].
Ranks can represent a single value 'x', a tie 'x=' or a range 'x-y'.

Uruguay

GII 2025 rank **68**

Output rank	Input rank	Income	Region	Population (mn)	GDP, PPP$ (bn)	GDP per capita, PPP$
76	61	High	Latin America and the Caribbean	3.4	123.2	34,440.2

	Score / Value	Rank	
Institutions	**67.5**	**31**	
1.1 Institutional environment	**73**	**28**	
1.1.1 Operational stability for businesses*	82	16	●
1.1.2 Government effectiveness*	64	33	
1.2 Regulatory environment	**66**	**38**	
1.2.1 Regulatory quality*	62.3	41	
1.2.2 Rule of law*	69.7	35	
1.3 Business environment	**63.4**	**30**	
1.3.1 Policy stability for doing business†	86.1	4	●
1.3.2 Entrepreneurship policies and culture†	40.7	48	
Human capital and research	**24.2**	**93**	◇
2.1 Education	**41.6**	**97**	◇
2.1.1 Expenditure on education, % GDP	3.6	93	
2.1.2 Government funding/pupil, secondary, % GDP/cap	13.7	74	◇
2.1.3 School life expectancy, years	17.5	17	●
2.1.4 PISA scales in reading, maths and science	424.8	49	◇
2.1.5 Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	n/a	n/a	
2.2 Tertiary education	**22.1**	**91**	◇
2.2.1 Tertiary enrolment, % gross	76.4	32	
2.2.2 Graduates in science and engineering, %	14.5	108	○ ◇
2.2.3 Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2.3	76	
2.3 Research and development (R&D)	**8.8**	**68**	◇
2.3.1 Researchers, FTE/mn pop.	902.4	56	◇
2.3.2 Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	0.6	57	
2.3.3 Global corporate R&D investors, top 3, mn USD	0	44	○ ◇
2.3.4 QS university ranking, top 3*	16.8	60	
Infrastructure	**50.6**	**46**	
3.1 Information and communication technologies (ICTs)	**87.4**	**36**	
3.1.1 ICT access*	93.7	48	
3.1.2 ICT use*	82.5	46	
3.1.3 Government's online service*	85.9	28	●
3.2 General infrastructure	**24.8**	**94**	◇
3.2.1 Electricity output, GWh/mn pop.	3,766.1	58	
3.2.2 Logistics performance*	40.9	60	◇
3.2.3 Gross capital formation, % GDP	17.5	114	○ ◇
3.3 Ecological sustainability	**39.6**	**19**	
3.3.1 GDP/unit of energy use	14.6	35	
3.3.2 Low-carbon energy use, %	51.4	12	●
3.3.3 ISO 14001 environment/bn PPP$ GDP	2.9	32	●
Market sophistication	**27.6**	**103**	◇
4.1 Credit	**19.9**	**92**	◇
4.1.1 Finance for startups and scaleups†	31.2	77	○ ◇
4.1.2 Domestic credit to private sector, % GDP	28.9	102	◇
4.1.3 Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2 Investment	**4.8**	**72**	◇
4.2.1 Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	n/a	
4.2.2 Venture capital (VC) received, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.09	59	
4.2.3 Late-stage VC deal count, % global VC	0.004	87	○
4.2.4 VC investors, deal count/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	50	
4.2.5 VC investor co-participation/bn PPP$ GDP	0.06	55	
4.3 Trade, diversification and market scale	**58.1**	**97**	◇
4.3.1 Applied tariff rate, weighted avg., %	4.8	94	◇
4.3.2 Domestic industry diversification	66.3	82	◇
4.3.3 Domestic market scale, bn PPP$	123.2	90	

	Score / Value	Rank	
Business sophistication	**22.1**	**115**	◇
5.1 Knowledge workers	**21.2**	**130**	◇
5.1.1 Knowledge-intensive employment, %	24.8	58	◇
5.1.2 Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	9.4	78	◇
5.1.3 Youth demographic dividend, %	31.9	80	
5.1.4 GERD performed by business, % GDP	0.3	49	
5.1.5 GERD financed by business, %	4.2	80	○ ◇
5.2 Innovation linkages	**21.9**	**82**	◇
5.2.1 Public research–industry co-publications, %	0.7	107	◇
5.2.2 University–industry R&D collaboration†	36	65	
5.2.3 University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	n/a	
5.2.4 State of cluster development†	44.2	72	
5.2.5 Patent families/bn PPP$ GDP	0.08	56	
5.3 Knowledge absorption	**23.2**	**83**	◇
5.3.1 Intellectual property payments, % total trade	1	40	
5.3.2 High-tech imports, % total trade	7	87	
5.3.3 ICT services imports, % total trade	1.8	49	
5.3.4 FDI net inflows, % GDP	4.6	32	●
5.3.5 Research talent, % in businesses	2.1	77	○ ◇
Knowledge and technology outputs	**20**	**73**	◇
6.1 Knowledge creation	**9.3**	**86**	◇
6.1.1 Patents by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.1	108	○ ◇
6.1.2 PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	n/a	
6.1.3 Utility models by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.2	45	
6.1.4 Scientific and technical articles/bn PPP$ GDP	9.8	72	◇
6.1.5 Citable documents H-index	10.2	76	
6.2 Knowledge impact	**21.1**	**89**	
6.2.1 Labor productivity growth, %	0.6	79	
6.2.2 Unicorn valuation, % GDP	0	53	○ ◇
6.2.3 Software spending, % GDP	0.2	62	
6.2.4 High-tech manufacturing	15.8	72	◇
6.3 Knowledge diffusion	**29.6**	**43**	
6.3.1 Intellectual property receipts, % total trade	0.3	37	
6.3.2 Production and export complexity	51	56	
6.3.3 High-tech exports, % total trade	1	78	◇
6.3.4 ICT services exports, % total trade	6.1	16	●
6.3.5 ISO 9001 quality/bn PPP$ GDP	10.5	24	●
Creative outputs	**18.6**	**81**	◇
7.1 Intangible assets	**12.3**	**94**	◇
7.1.1 Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	n/a	
7.1.2 Trademarks by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	43.3	43	
7.1.3 Global brand value, top 5,000, % GDP	0	81	○ ◇
7.1.4 Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	0.7	74	
7.2 Creative goods and services	**16.1**	**59**	
7.2.1 Cultural and creative services exports, % total trade	1.1	26	●
7.2.2 National feature films/mn pop. 15–69	5.1	35	
7.2.3 Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	n/a	
7.2.4 Creative goods exports, % total trade	0.08	102	
7.3 Online creativity	**33.5**	**48**	
7.3.1 Top-level domains (TLDs)/th pop. 15–69	10.8	44	
7.3.2 GitHub commits/mn pop. 15–69	18.4	47	
7.3.3 Mobile app creation/bn PPP$ GDP	71.4	34	

NOTES: ● indicates a strength ○ a weakness ◆ an income group strength ◇ an income group weakness * an index † a survey question 🕒 that the economy's data is outdated. Square brackets [ ] indicate the the data minimum coverage (DMC) requirements were not met at the sub-pillar or pillar level, n/a represents missing values, a dash - indicates an indicator which is not relevant to this economy and thus not considered for DMC thresholds.

Global Innovation Index 2025

Data Availability

The following tables list indicators that are either missing or outdated for Uruguay.

Uruguay has missing data for seven indicators and outdated data for ten indicators.

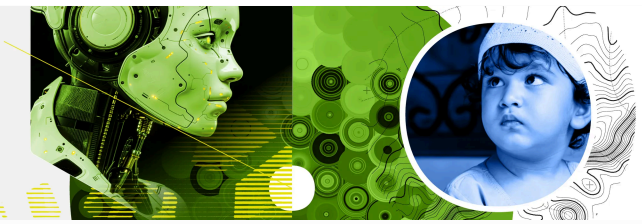
Missing data for Uruguay

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
2.1.5	Pupil–teacher ratio, secondary	n/a	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
4.1.3	Loans from microfinance institutions, % GDP	n/a	2023	International Monetary Fund, Financial Access Survey (FAS)
4.2.1	Market capitalization, % GDP	n/a	2022	World Federation of Exchanges; World Bank
5.2.3	University industry & international engagement, top 5*	n/a	2025	Times Higher Education, World University Rankings 2025
6.1.2	PCT patents by inventor origin/bn PPP$ GDP	n/a	2024	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund
7.1.1	Intangible asset intensity, top 15, %	n/a	2024	Brand Finance
7.2.3	Entertainment and media market/th pop. 15–69	n/a	2024	PwC, GEMO; United Nations, World Population Prospects; International Monetary Fund

Outdated data for Uruguay

Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
2.1.3	School life expectancy, years	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.1	Tertiary enrolment, % gross	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.2.3	Tertiary inbound mobility, %	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
2.3.2	Gross expenditure on R&D, % GDP	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.1.1	Knowledge-intensive employment, %	2023	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.2	Females employed w/advanced degrees, %	2023	2024	International Labour Organization
5.1.4	GERD performed by business, % GDP	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.1.5	GERD financed by business, %	2021	2022	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT
5.3.5	Research talent, % in businesses	2022	2023	UNESCO Institute for Statistics; Eurostat; OECD; RICYT

Global Innovation Index 2025



Code	Indicator name	Economy year	Model year	Source
7.1.4	Industrial designs by origin/bn PPP$ GDP	2017	2023	World Intellectual Property Organization; International Monetary Fund

Global Innovation Index 2025

About the Global Innovation Index

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) is published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Recognizing that innovation is a key driver of economic development, the GII aims to provide an innovation ranking and rich analysis referencing around 140 economies. Over the last decade, the GII has established itself as both a leading reference on innovation and a "tool for action" for economies that incorporate the GII into their innovation agendas.

The Index is a ranking of the innovation capabilities and results of world economies. It measures innovation based on criteria that include institutions, human capital and research infrastructure, credit, investment, linkages, the creation, absorption and diffusion of knowledge and creative outputs.

The GII has two sub-indices: the Innovation Input Sub-Index and the Innovation Output Sub-Index, and seven pillars, each consisting of three sub-pillars.